

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/649,239

Examiner

Sharidan Carrillo

Applicant(s)

HAYES ET AL.

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/27/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6-12,14 and 15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

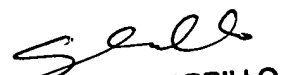
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SHARIDAN CARRILLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Sharidan Carrillo
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Nicholas Rouse on 2/8/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

Specification:

Page 7, **At the end of paragraph 0028**, after "152." Insert –The cold end 156 is maintained at a temperature below the melting point of the paraffin and the hot end 160 is heated to a temperature of at least the melting point of the paraffin.—

Claims:

Please replace all previous versions of claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12, and 14-15 with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for removing paraffin from a tissue embedding mold, comprising the steps of:

- (a) placing ~~[[the]]~~ a tissue embedding mold containing paraffin in a mold receiving chamber of a cleaning vessel;

- (b) introducing an aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel in an amount to cover the tissue embedding mold;
- (c) heating the aqueous cleaning solution to at least the melting point of the paraffin contained on the tissue embedding mold;
- (d) maintaining the tissue embedding mold in the heated aqueous cleaning solution for a selected period of time wherein at least a portion of the paraffin on the tissue embedding mold melts from the tissue embedding mold to produce a paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution;
- (e) removing the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel;
- (f) repeating steps (b) - (e) until the tissue embedding mold is substantially free of paraffin;
- (g) introducing the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution removed from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel into a tank provided with a plurality of baffles;
- (h) heating a lower end of the baffles to a temperature at least the melting point of the paraffin;
- (i) maintaining an upper end of the baffles at a temperature below the melting point of the paraffin;
- (j) passing the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution [[by]] over the upper [[ends]] end of the baffles where the paraffin in the paraffin

containing aqueous cleaning solution solidifies on the upper ~~[[ends]]~~ end of the baffles thereby separating the paraffin from the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution to produce a treated aqueous cleaning solution; and

(k) removing the treated aqueous cleaning solution from the tank.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: introducing a surfactant to the aqueous cleaning solution prior to introducing the aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: ~~[[passing]]~~ removing the treated aqueous cleaning solution from the tank into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel for reuse.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of removing the paraffin from the upper ~~[[ends]]~~ end of the baffles.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for removing paraffin from a tissue embedding mold, comprising the steps of:

(a) placing ~~[[the]]~~ a tissue embedding mold containing paraffin in a mold receiving chamber of a cleaning vessel;

- (b) introducing a paraffin dissolving solvent into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel in an amount to cover the tissue embedding mold;
- (c) maintaining the tissue embedding mold in the paraffin dissolving solvent for a selected period of time wherein at least a portion of the paraffin on the tissue embedding mold dissolves from the tissue embedding mold to produce a paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent;
- (d) removing the paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel;
- (e) repeating steps (b) - (d) until the tissue embedding mold is substantially free of paraffin;
- (f) introducing the paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent removed from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel into a tank provided with a plurality of baffles;
- (g) heating a lower end of the baffles to a temperature at least the melting point of the paraffin;
- (h) maintaining an upper end of the baffles at a temperature below the melting point of the paraffin;
- (i) passing the paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent [[by]] over the upper [[ends]] end of the baffles where the paraffin in the paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent solidifies on the upper [[ends]] end of the baffles thereby separating the paraffin from the paraffin containing

paraffin dissolving solvent to produce a treated paraffin dissolving solvent solution; and

- (j) removing the treated paraffin dissolving solvent solution from the tank.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of: introducing a surfactant to the paraffin dissolving solvent prior to introducing the paraffin dissolving solvent into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of: ~~[[passing]]~~ removing the treated paraffin dissolving solvent solution from the tank into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel for reuse.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of removing the paraffin from the upper ~~[[ends]]~~ end of the baffles.

2. In an interview with Mr. Rouse, on 2/8/2007, the examiner suggested amending the claims to correct 112, second paragraph issues in order to place the application in condition for allowance. The rejections of the claims as being unpatentable over Applicant's admission of the prior art in view of Hirano and further in view of secondary references are withdrawn since applicant has amended the claims to include the

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allowable subject matter, as previously indicated in paragraphs 9-10 of the previous Office Action of 5/26/2006.

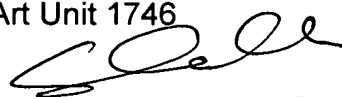
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharidan Carrillo whose telephone number is 571-272-1297. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W 6:30-4:00pm, alternating Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

bsc

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